**LEARN ABOUT THE LAND – A GEOLOGIC GUIDE TO THE RAGBRAI CHALLENGE**

For state employees who are about to embark on the muscle-straining, knee-breaking challenge known as RAGBRAI, help is available.

Cyclists who join the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) can find their guide to the approximately 444 mile challenging terrain in a series of brochures created by the DNR’s Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Each brochure provides a shaded relief map of the day’s ride. The brochures highlight the route and the elevations that cyclists will traverse. RAGBRAI riders can also find points of interest and information about the geologic features they will find each day.

The brochures can help cyclists understand the geologic factors that created the landscape they cross. For day one, that includes a 2,800-foot climb across the Missouri River Valley and up and down the Loess Hills.

Anyone who wants to know more about the landscape features is invited to a “Learn About the Land” discussion at 4:30 p.m. on July 28 in Iowa City. The talk will be in front of Trowbridge Hall, just north of the Old Capital, on the University of Iowa campus. Ray Anderson with the DNR Geologic Survey and Jim Caldwell, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, will discuss the hydrologic and geologic points of interest and answer questions about the route.

“Learn about the Land” brochures will be distributed at the campgrounds by the U.S.G.S. on Saturday and Sunday nights. They will also be available at the food booth hosted by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service during subsequent days of the ride and the Division of Tourism will have brochures available in Newton on July 26th.

The brochures can also be found on line at the DNR Web site:

* [Day 1: July 23, 2006 - Sergeant Bluff to Ida Grove](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/06jul/files/2006day1.pdf),\*.pdf file
* [Day 2: July 24, 2006 - Ida Grove to Audubon](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/06jul/files/2006day2.pdf),\*.pdf file
* [Day 3: July 25, 2006 - Audubon to Waukee](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/06jul/files/2006day3.pdf),\*.pdf file
* [Day 4: July 26, 2006 - Waukee to Newton](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/06jul/files/2006day4.pdf),\*.pdf file
* [Day 5: July 27, 2006 - Newton to Marengo](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/06jul/files/2006day5.pdf),\*.pdf file
* [Day 6: July 28, 2006 - Marengo to Coralville](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/06jul/files/2006day6.pdf),\*.pdf file
* [Day 7: July 29, 2006 - Coralville to Muscatine](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/06jul/files/2006day7.pdf),\*.pdf file

If planning ahead, cyclists may want to use the DNR’s GIS Interactive mapping (http://csbweb.igsb.uiowa.edu/imsgate/introduction/home.asp) site to preview the route. The “Recreation Map" includes interesting Iowa outdoor stops, with a “Service” folder of businesses such as repair shops or restaurants that might be useful.

For more information, contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .